[25th January 1928

Forests

Concessions in the reserved forests of South Kanara.

* 1423 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House the report called for in the answers to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) of question No. 930, answered on 31st October 1927, regarding the concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Legislative Council Question No. 1367.

Ravages by wild beasts in the forests of South Kanara.

* 1424 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table the report obtained from the Collector of South Kanara with regard to clauses (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*f*) and (*h*) of my question No. 929 regarding ravages by wild beasts in the reserved forests of South Kanara answered on the 31st October 1927?

A.—The report [a] received from the Collector of South Kanara is placed on the Council Table.

Ravages by wild beasts near the reserved forests of South Kanara.

* 1425 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House the report called for in the answer to clause (ii) of question No. 929, dated 31st October 1927, regarding the ravages by wild beasts near the reserved forests of South Kanara?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Legislative Council Question No. 1424.

Payment of grazing fees in the reserves in Mangalore.

* 1426 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total amount of fees recovered from ryots for the grazing of cattle in the reserves in the North and South Mangalore divisions respectively;

(*b*) how many persons have been prosecuted during each of the last three years for allowing their cattle to graze without licence;

(*c*) whether any representations have been made to Government for allowing free grazing or for reducing the grazing fees; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to exempt the cattle at least of poor cultivating tenants from the payment of grazing fees?

A.—(*a*) The information is contained in the Annual Form No. 34 appended to the Annual Administration Report of the Forest Department which is placed on the Editors' Table.

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 341–343 infra.

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(*b*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the 'Register of breaches of Forest Rules' appended to the Annual Administration Report of the Forest Department for the years referred to.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" With regard to clause (*d*) of this question, in view of the representations made to Government to reduce the grazing fees, may I know whether the Government will reconsider the question of exempting the cattle of poor tenants from the payment of grazing fees in full or at least a part of it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I am afraid it is not possible for the Government to do so."

Labour

Housing comforts of labourers in plantations.

*1427 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to the answers to my question No. 167 answered on 26th August 1927 and Mr. A. B. Shetty's question No. 1194 answered on 5th November 1927, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state —

(*a*) whether Government have verified after demanding explanation from the overseers or managers of the estates in which defects as to the housing comforts of labourers were noticed whether the alleged defects really existed and if so, to what extent;

(*b*) whether the defects in question have been remedied or whether any steps have been taken to remedy them;

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to place the explanations, if any, of the owners or managers of plantations before the House;

(*d*) whether they will be pleased to state what other estates have been inspected by the District Magistrate or his subordinates, and with what result;

(*e*) whether they have passed any rules or orders regarding the accommodation and amenities of life required for labourers in plantations as required by the Madras Planters Labour Act; and

(*f*) in view of the repeal of that Act with effect from a certain date in 1929, what legislation Government propose to take to secure to labourers the necessary amenities of life in plantations?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A statement [a] received from the Commissioner of Labour in December showing how far the defects noticed in various estates have been remedied is laid on the table.

(*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) No rules or general orders have been passed.

(*f*) The question will be duly considered.

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a Printed as Appendix VI on pages 344-346 infra.